



Teaching and Learning Links

Office of Instructional Promising Practices Division of Standards and Learning

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From the Director's Desk



New Year's Eve has always been a time for looking back to the past, and more importantly, forward to the coming year. It's a time to reflect on the changes we want or need to make and resolve to follow through on those changes.

If one of your New Year's resolutions is to learn something new, our office is poised to help you keep your resolution through the varied professional development that we offer. You can read about our offerings in this newsletter, on our webpage, or by e-mailing or contacting one of us.

If we are not meeting your needs, please let us know. After all, one of our resolutions is to better serve you by providing effective technical assistance and meaningful professional development. May your new year be the best ever!

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Response to Intervention

The South Carolina Response to Intervention (RTI) State Leadership Team has completed a draft RTI guidance document including ten support documents. The team has made recommendations on how to proceed with dissemination, professional development, and implementation. The three-tiered model supports a standard protocol and problem-solving methods. This document does not prescribe classroom activities, materials, instructional strategies, approaches, or practices—all of which are education components that need to be determined on the basis of the needs of individual students, schools, and districts—nor does it support certain programs or materials. There are many ideas and philosophies about how students learn and the programs and materials that support that learning. *The South Carolina Response to Intervention Guidance Document* describes an in-depth process and, if implemented with fidelity, students will make academic progress. This document was created to assist schools and districts with their own implementation of RTI. Districts will be receiving additional information upon the approval of the document. For additional information, contact Pam Huxford at 803-734-8825 or phuxford@ed.sc.gov.

The of the Future: SECA Conference

It's not too late to register for the Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA) conference scheduled for January 29-31 at the Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort. For all conference information and the registration form, visit the conference website (http://www.southernearlychildhood.org/seca_conference.php).

New Way to Re-enforce Learning and Help End Hunger

Teachers, are you looking for new ways to give your students practice with math, science, vocabulary, grammar skills? Check out this web site, <http://freerice.com>. Students can select what subject (art, chemistry, vocabulary, grammar, math, geography, and foreign language). They are then given multiple choice questions for their selected subject area. For each correct answer the student earns twenty grains of rice, which is displayed in a bowl on the right of the screen. The rice is donated to [UN World Food Program](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/dah/food/food.htm), which is designed to help end world hunger.

2008–09 Best Practice Seminar Series



The fourth session of the Best Practice Seminar Series will be on February 17, 2009, at the Brookland Baptist Church Conference Center. Penny Kittle will lead the session on "Writing: Risk, Voice, and Clarity."

Please remember that we are using online registration. To register, go to the registration link at <https://elearning.ed.sc.gov>, click on the

Catalog & Registration Tab. The catalog number for this session is OIPP 3004. Please print a copy of your completed registration **prior to submitting it**, as you will need it to make your payment. To pay, attach the registration form to a check made payable to SCIRA (\$75.00 per session) and send both to Judy Redman at Post Office Box 10101, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29731. No purchase orders will be accepted.

Summer Open Institute with Katie Wood Ray



Enhancing the Effectiveness of Writing Workshop

**July 13-15, 2009, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Coastal Carolina University**

The Coastal Area Writing Project extends an invitation to all South Carolina educators to attend our summer open institute with Katie Wood Ray. During this three-day workshop, Katie Wood Ray will focus on "Enhancing the Effectiveness of Writing Workshop." The registration fee is \$150 per participant. Space is limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. For further information on this featured workshop, please contact Marcie Ellerbe at mkellerbe@verizon.net.



Step It Up with SchoolRooms: A New Online Learning Portal

This new resource, brought to you by the SC State Library and your county public library, is a great way to inspire students and parents about the topics you cover in the classroom.

When your students need information for homework, projects, or just for fun, think SchoolRooms. SchoolRooms provides resources—built around curriculum standards—to help students with research and homework. The content is divided by grade level and then by content area.

Here are just a few of the types of information you can find in SchoolRooms:

- websites handpicked by teachers and librarians;
- encyclopedias, articles, magazines, and more from selected DISCUS databases; and
- animations, slideshows, educational games, and more, all organized by curriculum standard.
- "Federated" searching that lets students search DISCUS databases, websites, and their public library catalog all at once.

In addition, SchoolRooms has rooms just for educators and librarians with information such as:

- lesson plans, classroom activities, and other teaching tools;

- classroom, media center, personal, and professional management resources; and
- technology training and assessment tools for you and your students.

Along with these features, the SC State Library is creating a series of Curriculum Tips, available at <http://www.statelibrary.sc.gov/toolkit/>, which outline SchoolRooms resources available for a given curriculum standard. The first one concerns the Harlem Renaissance. The toolkit also has a series of video tutorials for you, your students, and their parents, as well as promotional items, such as bookmarks and logos, for you to use.

SchoolRooms is available to all SC students, educators, librarians, and parents. To access it, go to <http://scla.schoolrooms.net>. To receive the quarterly SchoolRooms newsletter by email, send a message to scrooms@statelibrary.sc.gov.



DISCUS (<http://www.scdiscus.org>) is pleased to announce a new partnership with Britannica Digital Learning that took effect on January 1, 2009. Britannica is providing a new suite of encyclopedia products.

Also, effective January 1, 2009, subscriptions to all Grolier and NewsBank products were discontinued. These subscriptions include:

Grolier Online Passport
Amazing Animals of the World
Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia
The State newspaper
America's News Magazines

Grolier Online Kids
New Book of Knowledge
Encyclopedia Americana
The Greenville News



Today's teachers have access to an abundance of educational content but little time to plan and find these resources. They have to remember web addresses, user names and passwords. Building on its commitment to provide quality services to

South Carolina schools, ETV has designed a new K-12 educational web portal, **OnePlaceSC**. This portal helps teachers overcome the challenges of finding what they need in order to continue to provide a rich learning environment for S.C. students. **OnePlaceSC** offers a single internet sign on with instant access to an abundance of web resources via a federated search.

Teachers can search all their quality educational content, including *Knowitall.org*, *StreamlineSC*, *PBS Kids*, and *PBS Teachers* by using **OnePlaceSC**. In addition to ETV resources, **OnePlaceSC** will search the Department of Education's ITV resources and the State Library's *DISCUS* content sites. **OnePlaceSC** also gives teachers access to live streaming TV programs aired on ETV's broadcast or satellite channels and offers a real time TV guide with descriptions and summary of times when all educational programs are aired statewide.

When applicable, through the sign-in process, **OnePlaceSC** will display local TV guides, making district specific programs viewable on demand. With the assistance of DES operators, schools with local district streaming can record off-air video streams and put them into **StreamlineSC**, so teachers can later search and play back off-air recordings at their convenience. (To learn more about DES visit: <http://www.scetv.org/education/des>.)

In addition to curriculum resources, **OnePlaceSC** provides a gateway to professional development resources including videos and course search sites to assist in recertification and professional needs.

To access **OnePlaceSC**, visit the website at <http://oneplacesc.org> and use your ETV **StreamlineSC** user name and password. For more information or to set up an account, call 800-277-3245.

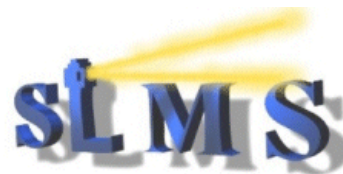
Professional Development, Grants, and Other Opportunities

The **Winter Literacy Conference**, sponsored by the College of Education at the University of South Carolina will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Dutch Fork High School, Irmo, SC. Topics include reaching male readers in the middle grades, learning literacy through inquiry, and finding the writer in every child. Registration information is available online at <http://www.ed.sc.edu/ite/langlit/conference/>. For more information contact Julie Niehaus, niehaus@mailbox.sc.edu.

The federal grant, **Improving Literacy Through School Libraries**, is now open. The grant is open to local education agencies (LEAs) in which at least 20 percent of students served are from families with incomes below the poverty line. A list of eligible districts is available online; just select South Carolina from the list of states (<http://www.ed.gov/programs/lsl/eligibility.html>). The purpose of this grant is to help LEAs improve reading achievement by providing students with increased access to up-to-date school library materials; well-equipped, technologically advanced school library media centers; and professionally certified school library media specialists. District library supervisors participated in a workshop on January 13 about this grant. Deadline for proposal submissions is 4:30 p.m., March 6. For more information or for assistance with your grant proposal, contact Martha Alewine (malewine@ed.sc.gov or 864-229-4230).

School Library Media Services Monthly Reading Calendars

The January monthly reading calendar is available online at <http://reading-calendars.pbwiki.com> If you

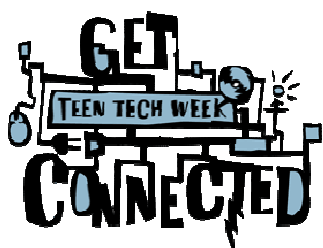


would like to receive the calendar each month as a direct email, please send an email to Martha Alewine (malewine@ed.sc.gov) with the following statement in the subject line: *Subscribe Monthly Reading Calendars*.

2009 Suggested Reading Lists

Available online at <http://reading-calendars.pbwiki.com>, these new lists include

- 100 Suggested Picture Books
- 100 Suggested Titles for Elementary Students
- 100 Suggested Titles for Middle School Students
- 100 Suggested Titles for High School Students
- 50 Suggested Titles for Adult Recreational Reading



Teen Tech Week, March 8-14, 2009

Start planning now how you can showcase the non-print and web-based resources (e.g., DVDs, databases, audiobooks/e-books, online homework help, videogames) available in and through your library media center. Talk with your library media specialist to plan some fun activities and how to share information with your

parents.

Teen Tech Week is a national initiative sponsored by the Young Adult Library Services Association and is aimed at teens, their parents, educators and other concerned adults. The purpose of the initiative is to ensure that teens are competent and ethical users of technologies, especially those that are offered through libraries such as DVDs, databases, audiobooks, and videogames. Teen Tech Week encourages teens to use libraries' nonprint resources for education and recreation, and to recognize that librarians are qualified, trusted professionals in the field of information technology.



This photo was taken during a previous Read-In.

Annual Read-in at the Capital

This year's Read-In will be on **Thursday, April 16**. If you and your students plan to attend, you must register. Registrations will be accepted by mail or by fax. The registration form is available online at http://scasl.net/documents/readin-form_000.pdf.

The registration deadline is **March 16**.

State Superintendent's Writing Awards Program

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is pleased to announce the creation of the State Superintendent's Writing Awards Program, previously known as the Lt. Governor's Writing Awards Program. The purpose of this awards program is to support the teaching of the South Carolina Academic Standards and provide fifth and eighth grade students an opportunity to express themselves through the writing process.

Participating districts are to implement the program from December 2008 to March 2009 according to a timeframe that works best for them. It is suggested that students work on writing essays between December and February, with scoring and judging done in March. Each district's winning essay and forms are due in our office no later than **March 31, 2009**.

Each grade level will respond to one prompt only. Although choice is a crucial part of effective writing instruction, we must be able to equitably score essays. Each year, the Office of Instructional Promising Practices will partner with other offices within the agency to create writing prompts on related topics. Writing prompts may require research of the topic. Time for research and increased time to write have been added.

The 2008–09 writing prompts focus around the topic of financial literacy.

Fifth Grade—*Savings and Financial Well-Being*

Discuss how saving contributes to financial well-being. Do you think it is important to start saving at your current age? Why or why not?

Eighth Grade—*Personal Financial Responsibility*

Think about the current economic crisis in our country. Why is it important that every individual be responsible for personal financial decisions? How can you start learning financial responsibility at your age?

The writing program will be highlighted at a statewide recognition ceremony in May 2009, in Columbia. All winners and their family, district superintendents, principals, teachers, and writing coordinators will be invited.

Specific details regarding the program were sent to each district's English language arts contact. Please contact Caroline Savage at 803–734–4770 or csavage@ed.sc.gov if you have any questions regarding the program.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide leadership, professional development, and technical assistance to the education community through the implementation of innovative practices that lead to student learning through standards-based instruction.

Programs, Projects, and Initiatives

To meet our mission, the Office of Instructional Promising Practices offers an array of programs designed to meet the needs of districts, schools, and teachers.

- Best Practice Seminars
- Bridges to Early Learning
- Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP)
- Early Childhood Education
- Exemplary Writing Project
- SC GEAR UP
- iCoaching Program (Science and Mathematics)
- Keeping Learning On Track* (classroom formative assessment pilot)
- Mathematics and Science Programs
- Reading Recovery
- Response to Intervention
- SC Algebra Project
- SC Coalition for Mathematics and Science
- SC Middle Level Literacy Institute
- SC Reading Initiative
- SC Reading First
- School Library Media Services (SLMS)
- Work Sampling

For additional information on these various programs, please visit our website <http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/Standards-and-Learning/Instructional-Promising-Practices>

For information on workshops, training sessions, and other professional development opportunities, please see our office calendar, available online at <http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/Standards-and-Learning/Instructional-Promising-Practice>